

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 30, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 were pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 have been rejected. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are hereby amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 7, and 9 have been amended to describe additional inventive aspects not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Shoham. In particular, they have been amended to recite an area in which a telecommunication service is offered by a provider. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, there are many reasons why the mere teaching of the purchasing system of Shoham does not anticipate the recitation of Claims 1, 7, and 9 relative to telecommunication services. A purchaser of telecommunication services is not merely concerned with price as taught by Shoham relative to other products. In particular, a particular service or a particular service provider may not provide telecommunication services in an area desired by a purchaser. The system of Shoham would lead to purchasers buying telecommunication services that did not meet their most basic requirements.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that amended claim 1, claims 2 and 4 through 7 that depend from claim 1, and amended claims 8 and 9 are allowable over Shoham. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action. If the Examiner feels a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe that no other fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2816 of Patton Boggs, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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